

MCB keeps everything in OEF moving

Story and photo by
Spc. Travis Edwards
1st COSCOM PAO

CAMP STRONGHOLD FREEDOM, Uzbekistan — If it moves, they see it. They know where it is and where it is going. They run 24-hour operations to keep a close eye on it, tracking it every step of the way, making sure it moves unhindered.

They are the 257th Movement Control Battalion, a U.S. Army Reserve transportation battalion. They control the movement of supplies and personnel flowing in and out of the Operation Enduring Freedom area of operations.

“There are only three ways supplies and personnel get to Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, via road, rail and air,” said Spc. Christopher Grant, 257th MCB. “We manage them all.”

The 257th MCB from Gainesville, Fla., is attached to the Joint Logistics Command, Camp Stronghold Freedom, Uzbekistan, the nerve center for logistics in theatre. The



Spc. Alvin Batten, 21st Cargo Transfer Company, Camp Stronghold Freedom, Uzbekistan, guides a forklift carrying a pallet of medical supplies after inspecting it.

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348th continues 678th engineer mission

By Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – From the early morning hours into the evening, the sounds of hammers, drills and bulldozers can be heard throughout Bagram as different engineer units perform their missions to make the air base a better place.

One of these units is responsible for making sure that the living conditions on Bagram and different Forward Operating Bases throughout Afghanistan show improvements to the quality of life for troops deployed here.

“Our mission is to support the engineer needs of Bagram and FOBs where our war fighters are still located,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2, Ron Nelson, executive officer, 348th Engineer Detachment,

Waco, Texas. “We are also responsible for improving the living conditions and erecting structures for the coalition forces.”

Since their arrival in April the 57-man detachment has been busy on numerous projects.

“We have our people divided between here and different FOBs doing everything from repairing the runway, to building living quarters,” said Nelson. “Since we are so small, the larger projects are left up to the battalion-size units, but we have our hands full with the work we are given.”

One of the main projects the detachment has been tasked with is building the foundation for the new Egyptian Hospital that will serve as a clinic for Afghans in to the Bagram area.

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Fabio Ochoa was brought to a Miami jail after his extradition in September 2001.

Colombian drug kingpin convicted of charges

MIAMI, Fla. — A founder of Colombia's former Medellin drug cartel was convicted Wednesday of charges he rejoined a smuggling network after he was released from prison and given amnesty.

Fabio Ochoa, who helped form the cartel that made billions shipping drugs into the United States in the 1980s, was found guilty in Florida on two drug counts for importing cocaine into the United States.

A federal jury took just four hours to reach its verdict. Deliberations began Tuesday afternoon and ended shortly after noon Wednesday.

Ochoa, 46, had been one of the most sought-after druglords in U.S. history, and many in the law enforcement community thought they would never see his conviction in the United States.

"The Ochoas were to cocaine smuggling what Ford was to automobiles," former DEA supervisor Tom Cash said.

Sentencing was set for Aug. 19. He faces 20 years to life in prison.

Bush to hold summit during Mideast trip

WASHINGTON — President Bush will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas next week in Jordan in the president's biggest personal pitch for Mideast peace since taking office, Bush administration officials said Wednesday.

After meeting with both men separately, Bush will then sit down with both leaders

together to discuss the new peace plan — if, in the words of his national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, "conditions permit."

Asked what she meant, Rice said, "We're watching the circumstances. We're watching to see if the parties are moving forward."

"The president is simply saying that he will assess, but he fully believes that he's going to be able to go forward," she said.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer used similar qualifiers when he announced the summit would take place June 4 in the Jordanian port city of Aqaba.

Bush signs \$350 billion tax-cut

WASHINGTON — President Bush signed a bill on Wednesday that offers \$330 billion in tax breaks to families, businesses and investors and \$20 billion in state aid — a package less than half the size of the one he initially sought.

The 10-year legislation, which Bush signed with considerable fanfare at a White House ceremony, will within weeks start speeding refunds to parents and fattening paychecks and investor earnings.

The Internal Revenue Service is posting new withholding tax tables so employers can start leaving more money in workers' paychecks starting next month; child tax credits checks of up to \$400 per child will begin arriving in the mailboxes of 25 million eligible families in July, the president noted.

"By ensuring that Americans have more to spend, to save and to invest, this legislation is adding fuel to an economic recovery," Bush said. "We have taken aggressive action to strengthen the foundation of our economy so that every American who wants to work will be able to find a job."

The bill-signing in the East Room was for the third-largest tax cut in the nation's history. It came a day after Bush — with no comment or ceremony — signed a bill allowing the federal government to borrow as much as \$7.4 trillion.

The \$984 billion increase in the federal debt limit, which the White House announced in a 20-word statement from the press secretary, is the largest on record. It will help pay for the new tax cuts that the

GOP-run Congress passed on close votes at Bush's behest.

Study: Playing video games not so mindless

NEW YORK — All those hours spent playing video games may not be wasted time after all: A new study suggests action-packed video games like "Grand Theft Auto III" and "Counter-Strike" may sharpen your mind.

Researchers at the University of Rochester found that young adults who regularly played video games full of high-speed car chases and blazing gun battles showed better visual skills than those who did not. For example, they kept better track of objects appearing simultaneously and processed fast-changing visual information more efficiently.

To rule out the possibility that visually adept people are simply drawn to video games, the researchers conducted a second experiment. They found that people who do not normally play video games but were trained to play them developed enhanced visual perception.

Times accepts Pulitzer-winning reporter's resignation

NEW YORK — New York Times Executive Editor Howell Raines announced to his staff Wednesday that he has accepted the resignation of Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Rick Bragg.

Raines' e-mail announcement comes amid the scandal surrounding reporter Jayson Blair and soon after the Times published a correction describing how Bragg crafted stories from a freelancer's notes. The e-mail, which is signed simply "Howell," read:

"Rick Bragg has offered his resignation, and I have accepted it. We know this has been a difficult period. We have full confidence in our staff and will be talking with you more in short order."

Bragg, a national correspondent for the newspaper and best-selling author of two memoirs, told CNN Tuesday that he would resign but said he had done nothing wrong and that he followed Times policy of using the work of freelancers without giving them credit.

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257th acts as the Movement Control Center, working closely with the Distribution Management Center and other sections within the JLC.

"Our mission is to command all movement control functions within the (Combined Joint Operations Area). We do this with movement control teams at Bagram and Kandahar Air Bases, Afghanistan, Camp Stronghold Freedom, Uzbekistan and movement control liaisons teams at Rhein-Mein, Germany and Manas, Kyrgyzstan," said Lt. Col. Michael Klump, commander, 257th MCB.

Each of these nodes performs tasks critical to the movement of cargo and passengers in the CJOA.

The movement control teams provide cargo transfer, cargo documentation, load planning, and passenger manifesting for each base.

"As an MCT we work together to track incoming cargo and make sure it gets to the right people. We ensure that all out going cargo is correctly marked and made ready for shipment," said Capt. James Boggess, commander, 557th MCT, Camp Stronghold Freedom, Uzbekistan.

The movement control liaison teams provide personnel management, the manifesting of troops on aircraft into and out of the theatre of operations.

"We transfer personnel from rotator flights to military aircraft heading into the Operation Enduring Freedom theatre of operations," said Capt. Jeffrey Mozingo, commander, 257th MCLT, Manas, Kyrgyzstan. "We also keep an eye on cargo headed downrange."

Whether it is food and water, personnel, or ammunition the Joint Logistics Command has visibility on it as it comes and goes. This visibility is due to the 257th Movement Control Battalion, and its movement teams spread throughout Southwest Asia supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

"We make sure you get here. We make sure you get food supplies. And we make sure you have an aircraft to redeploy home," said Capt. Sam Montionne, surface chief. "I'd say we are vital to missions all over Operation Enduring Freedom."

(Editor's note: Spc. Travis Edwards is the public affairs NCOIC of the Joint Logistics Command)

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Blade II."
Blade forms an uneasy alliance with the vampire council in order to combat the Reapers, vampires who feed on vampires.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Biker Boyz."



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Bagram:	Scattered t-storms H: 77F L: 55F	Scattered showers H: 75F L: 52F
Kandahar:	Partly cloudy H: 90F L: 64F	Mostly clear H: 90F L: 63F
Kabul:	Thunderstorms H: 70F L: 48F	Scattered showers H: 68F L: 45F
Uzbekistan:	Partly cloudy H: 90F L: 57F	Mostly cloudy H: 86F L: 55F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Uniform service for serving troops

Story and photo by
Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – When forces deployed to Afghanistan almost two years ago, the stress of tactical responsibilities grew on top of improving the former Soviet base. Working full days, servicemembers had very little time to do the simple things like washing clothes.

Kellogg Brown and Root Services found the solution to this question by installing a laundry and sewing service here in October 2002, said Reginald Marshall, Brown and Root Services.

Soldiers had to worry about tactical things. They needed someone to help out with laundry service, said Marshall.

The service, which employs 28 Afghans and five Brown and Root Services employees on each shift, provides U.S. and coalition servicemembers a laundry and sewing service.

Brown and Root Services ensures the Afghans are trained to standard, said Marshall. Afghans are in charge of the majority of washing and drying. Quality control workers re-check everything for proficiency, said Stanley Hill, Brown and Root Services.

Every day, the staff inventories, sorts and

washes approximately 776 bags of clothes in a containerized batch laundry system and a laundry advance system.

That makes 5,432 bags of clothes washed every week. The staff's standard is to return laundry in 72 hours, said Hill.

The sewing service takes care of sewing on unit patches, other insignias, nametapes, U.S. flags and brassards. Repairs are limited to minor rips, tears and button replacements. "The only thing we can't do is alter uniforms," said Hill.

The sewing service is open between 0330Z-1500Z. Servicemembers can bring anything in need of sewing, said Hill.

"It's a next day service, dependent upon customer flow," said Marshall.

To better serve servicemembers here, a future laundry site is in the planning process, said B'o Pitman, operations manager, Brown and Root Services. Currently, the joint acquisition review board is looking at the plan.

The plan is to install about 100 washers and 120 dryers in the same location with the same service except, "the quality is better," said Pitman. A section of the facility will be self-service. The Containerized Batch Laundry Systems, which are currently being used, will stay for medical laundry.

"It depends on subcontracting the procurement of washers and dryers," said Pit-



An Afghan loads laundry in a dryer at the laundry and sewing facility here Tuesday. Twenty-eight Afghans make up the staff for each shift.

man.

The future washers and dryers that are regular household units, save energy and are low-maintenance, said Pitman.



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

Pvt. 2 Sherman Youngblood, engineer, 348th Engineer Detachment, Waco, Texas, cuts plywood along the base of the new Egyptian Hospital foundation.

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"We've had about 14 troops at a time working on the hospital for the past few weeks," said Capt. Dameon Gray, commander, 348th. "When you put together our manpower, how long we've been working on the project, and how much we've accomplished, we're way ahead of schedule and hope to be done soon."

According to Nelson, their intention is not to outdo the 678th Engineer Detachment who they replaced, and to make things better for those who come after them.

"This is not a competition to see who can outdo who, but to improve the quality of life for whoever is here after us," said Nelson. "Making life easier for U.S. troops and contributing to the coalition efforts to help the Afghan people is the main goal we want to accomplish during our time here."

"I think the engineers are doing an outstanding job," said Gray. "They are really making life easier for both troops who are here and those who are on their way."



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)



The Mighty Ducks lost Game 1 of a series for the first time this Playoffs in last night's Stanley Cup Finals opener.

Ducks adjust to climate

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The visiting dressing room at Continental Airlines Arena is neither posh nor inhospitable, it is a room with a blue rubber floor and glossy white cinderblocks. The only decorative touch is a blue stripe that runs horizontally around the room's perimeter.

The Ducks have been nesting here since arriving on Monday and they brought a piece of art with them to liven up the room — a framed portrait of the Stanley Cup.

The portrait is hung next to the door. It's the last thing the players see before they leave the nest and head onto the ice.

None of the Ducks seemed to have paid it any attention Tuesday night as they were listless in a 3-0 loss to the New Jersey Devils in Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Finals.

"A lot of things have to change for the next game," forward Steve Thomas said. "Our motivation and passion have to change two-fold."

Call it rust from a 10-day layoff, nervousness or inexperience, but for the first time in these Stanley Cup Playoffs, the Ducks failed to win a series opener.

If the Ducks had to acclimatize themselves to being in the Finals, they now have the added pressure of winning Game 2 on the road.

According to Thomas, the Ducks have a mental checklist to run through as they prepare themselves for Game 2 on Thursday night.

"Just know that's Game 1 and we lost Game 1," Thomas said. "We have to remember what we did wrong, wake up the next morning and forget about it

and get ready for Game 2."

Roy leaves on his terms

DENVER — Au revoir, blue eyes.

Saying he had accomplished everything he set out to do, Colorado Avalanche goalie Patrick Roy, 37, announced his retirement Wednesday after 18 NHL seasons.

"It's always been my intention to play with consistency and leave on my own terms," Roy said in an upbeat news conference that followed a video presentation of his career highlights. Roy thanked the Avalanche organization for including clips of his wife and children in the video and said that kind of consideration for the players' families is a hallmark of the Colorado organization. "I am extremely proud of my career."

What a career and what highlights! Roy was not only a great goalie who won four Stanley Cups and three Vezina Trophies, like Hall of Famer Georges Vezina he is credited with influencing the way rivals and successors play the position.

"He is one of the smartest guys in terms of hockey knowledge that I ever met," said Mighty Ducks of Anaheim captain Paul Kariya who was Roy's teammate in several NHL All-Star Games.

Roy retires as the all-time winningest goalie in NHL history with

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2003 National Hockey League standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic

(2) New Jersey	108 pts
(4) Philadelphia	107 pts
(8) N.Y. Islanders	83 pts
N.Y. Rangers	78 pts
Pittsburgh	65 pts

Northeast

(1) Ottawa	113 pts
(5) Toronto	98 pts
(7) Boston	87 pts
Montreal	77 pts
Buffalo	72 pts

Southeast

(3) Tampa Bay	93 pts
(6) Washington	92 pts
Atlanta	74 pts
Florida	70 pts
Carolina	61 pts

Western Conference

Central

(2) Detroit	110 pts
(5) St. Louis	99 pts
Chicago	79 pts
Nashville	74 pts
Columbus	69 pts

Northwest

(3) Colorado	105 pts
(4) Vancouver	104 pts
(6) Minnesota	95 pts
(8) Edmonton	92 pts
Calgary	75 pts

Pacific

(1) Dallas	111 pts
(7) Anaheim	95 pts
Los Angeles	78 pts
Phoenix	78 pts
San Jose	73 pts

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551 regular-season victories. He won Stanley Cups with the 1986 and 1993 Montreal Canadiens and the 1996 and 2001 Avalanche. He was honored a record three times with the Conn Smythe Trophy as the Stanley Cup Playoffs Most Valuable Player in 1986, 1993 and 2001.

Roy is the Stanley Cup Playoffs all-time leader among goaltenders with 246 games played, 151 wins and 23 shutouts. His 2.30 goals-against average in the Playoffs ranks 12th all-time and he is fifth with a .622 Playoffs winning percentage. Roy's 11 consecutive Playoff games victories is a record that he shares with Ed Belfour and Tom Barrasso. He was 40-16 in Playoffs games that went into overtime.

He won three Vezina Trophies as the NHL's best goalie and a William Jennings Trophy in 1993 for fewest goals allowed during the regular season.

"It's a sad day for hockey because he has meant so much to the game," Kariya added. "He's been a great player and a great ambassador for the game. I'm sure he'll enjoy the time with his family. I know he has a couple of kids playing hockey and he can spend more time with them. I guess everybody has to call it quits at some point and he's had a fabulous career."

Roy's son, Frederic, 14, also a goalie, recently announced he would play next year for the Notre Dame Hounds, a Saskatchewan prep school also attended by NHL stars Vincent Lecavalier and Brad Richards, among others. Patrick Roy said the rest of the family will be moving back to Quebec where he is an owner of a junior hockey team. He will pursue other business interests there but said he has an interest in remaining in hockey.

Finals a hairy deal for Devils, Ducks

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New Jersey Devils and Mighty Ducks of Anaheim held their Stanley Cup Finals media day here Monday. Too bad no one shaved for the occasion.

When the Devils marched into their press conference, it looked like an Amish parade. The Ducks, meanwhile, flew west but saw their appearances go south.

Such a facial-hair fiasco has become an NHL tradition. Players stop shaving in the Playoffs, hoping to grab Lady Luck by the short hairs while growing a few of their own. The follicle challenged rookies quickly become distinguishable from the grizzled veterans.

And clearly without mirrors. A dark, thick beard covers most of Krog's face, but he trims the hairs on his neck to stave off itchiness. The resulting mismatch earned him a couple votes for the ugliest beard award. That honor later went to teammate Stanislav Chistov, whose nickname, "Cheesee," suits his visage well. Save a few patches of curly fur on his neck, Chistov, 20, has failed to sprout even a hamster's worth of hair.

"I shave after every round," the fair-haired forward claimed.

"It's usually the young, blonde-haired guys who have trouble," said Ray Ferraro, who played 18 years in the NHL and now works as an ESPN analyst.

As a player, Ferraro dodged the playoff-beard tradition, but he once grew one accidentally with the Hartford Whalers. Mired in a slump, Ferraro pledged not to shave until he scored. When his drought stretched into the Playoffs, so did his beard.

"I ended up never scoring," Ferraro said.

Others have shunned the tradition, too. Anaheim's Adam Oates, an 18-year veteran, never grows a playoff beard. Statistics show, he said, that the playoff-beard tradition is nothing more than a hare-brained scheme. "You've got 16 teams who start the playoffs," Oates said. "Everybody grows a beard. But 15 of the teams lose, so for most guys it doesn't work."

For other guys, it's too much work. Players who opt for a full beard - including Anaheim's J.S. Giguere and Steve Rucchin, along with New Jersey's Scott Niedermayer, Jay Pandolfo and John Madden - contend with itchiness, and sometimes beard grooming becomes more time consuming than shaving. That's why some guys go for the Chihuahua look.

"The first month is terrible," said Anaheim's Dan Bylsma, who dyed part of his dark beard red. "Now it's not so itchy anymore. Although, my wife can't wait for it to be off." The same can safely be said for the wife of New Jersey's Jim McKenzie, because McKenzie looks like an alien shaved crop circles into his face. McKenzie's sideburns extend 2 or 3 inches. His handlebars moustache flows around his lips and cheeks. A bit more stubble flourishes on his chin.



By Kevin Kilgore

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